



### Applying What You Learnt

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The ability to relate knowledge learnt in school to work is important. It allows you to create meaning in the knowledge you have learnt to your work. It also enables you to use the acquired knowledge to solve real problems at your workplace. As such, the knowledge you acquired while studying in UniSIM adds value to your work. Problems encountered or created in real life are usually ill structured and are affected by social, political and cultural contexts. Thus, there are times that you have to be realistic that certain work problems are too complex to be solved solely with the input of the knowledge learnt in the classroom. Nevertheless, this should not become an excuse not to attempt to relate the knowledge you acquired in UniSIM to your work. To use your learnt knowledge in solving work problems, you may consider adopting the steps below:

- a) Recognise key patterns and grasp as much information as possible of the problem by relating it to your learnt knowledge and past work experience.
- b) Conduct a mental simulation of a possible solution that is derived from the theoretical and practical considerations you have thought about.
- c) If the mental simulation points to a probable success, discuss the probable solution with your colleagues (if it is a teamwork) to get more inputs.
- d) If it is decided that this solution is to be tried, determine the goal, expected result and operation of the solution.
- e) Implement the probable solution. Monitor if it works.
- f) If the probable solution does not work, understand why it is so and repeat the procedure with the accumulated information from the first failed trial. Monitor if the new solution works.
- g) Terminate the whole process when one of the solutions you have tried is able solve the problem effectively.
- h) Keep a case note of this problem and solutions for reference in work and study.

While utilising your knowledge at workplace is useful to your work, it also helps you sustain your motivation in learning and more importantly, it assists you internalise the knowledge for assessment purposes. Lastly, we hope that you can utilise your learnt knowledge in your workplace successfully and meaningfully for both work and study.

### References

Jonassen, D. H. (2011). *Learning to solve problems: A handbook for designing problem-solving learning environments*. New York: Routledge.